

## CLAIMS:

I claim:

1. A method for a data handling policy in a collaborative computing environment, the method comprising:
  - storing the data handling policy for one of a person and a role on a computer storage medium;
  - implementing the data handling policy in the collaborative computing environment by providing access to data in accordance with the established data handling policy; and
  - providing access to the data handling policy to a person affected by the data handling policy, the access to the data handling policy including allowing the affected person to view the data handling policy.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the data handling policy includes policy relating to the treatment of orphaned data.
3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the treatment of orphaned data includes one of deleting the orphaned data and providing access to the orphaned data to a person other than the owner of the orphaned data.
4. The method according to Claim 1, further including configuring the system to allow one or more of predetermined roles and users to have authority to configure the

data handling policy.

5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the at least one of the predetermined roles and users having authority to configure the data handling policy corresponds to a place administrator, the place administrator having authority to configure the data handling policy within a predetermined collaborative computing place.

6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein implementing the data handling policy includes authorizing one or more end user persons to configure data access policy for data relating the one or more end user persons.

7. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the at least one of the predetermined roles and users having authority to configure the data handling policy corresponds to a deployment administrator, the deployment administrator having authority to configure the data handling policy within the entirety of collaborative computing deployment environment.

8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein providing access to the data handling policy further includes notifying the affected person of the existence of the data handling policy.

9. A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program which

when executed performs a collaborative computing method comprising:

storing the data handling policy for one of a person and a role;

implementing the data handling policy in the collaborative computing environment by providing access to data in accordance with the established data handling policy; and

providing access to the data handling policy to a person affected by the data handling policy, the access to the data handling policy including allowing the affected person to view the data handling policy.

10. The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 9, wherein the data handling policy includes policy relating to the treatment of orphaned data.

11. The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 10, wherein the treatment of orphaned data includes one of deleting the orphaned data and providing access to the orphaned data to a person other than the owner of the orphaned data.

12. The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 9, wherein the method performed by the stored computer program when executed further includes configuring the system to allow one or more of predetermined roles and users to have authority to configure the data handling policy.

13. The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 12, wherein

the at least one of the predetermined roles and users having authority to configure the data handling policy corresponds to a place administrator, the place administrator having authority to configure the data handling policy within a predetermined collaborative computing place.

14. The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 13, wherein implementing the data handling policy includes authorizing one or more end user persons to configure data access policy for data relating the one or more end user persons.

15. The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 12, wherein the at least one of the predetermined roles and users having authority to configure the data handling policy corresponds to a deployment administrator, the deployment administrator having authority to configure the data handling policy within the entirety of collaborative computing deployment environment.

16. The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 9, wherein providing access to the data handling policy further includes notifying the affected person of the existence of the data handling policy.

17. A system for handling data access in a collaborative computing environment, the system comprising a computer having:

a database, the database storing the data handling policy for one of a person and

a role; and

a central processing unit, the central processing unit implementing the data handling policy by providing access to data in accordance with the established data handling policy and providing access to the data handling policy to a person affected by the data handling policy, the access to the data handling policy including allowing the affected person to view the data handling policy.

18. The system according to Claim 17, wherein providing access to the data handling policy further includes notifying the affected person of the existence of the data handling policy.

19. The system according to Claim 17, wherein the central processing unit performs the function of allowing one or more of predetermined roles and users to have authority to configure the data handling policy.

20. The system according to Claim 19, wherein the at least one of the predetermined roles and users having authority to configure the data handling policy corresponds to a place administrator, the place administrator having authority to configure the data handling policy within a predetermined collaborative computing place.